

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

\$70,090.00 in United States Currency,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 5:19-cv-279 (TJM/TWD)

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE *IN REM***

Plaintiff, United States of America, by its attorneys, Grant C. Jaquith, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and Mary E. Langan, Assistant United States Attorney, brings this verified complaint for forfeiture *in rem* against the above-captioned assets (the “defendant currency”) and alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

This is an action *in rem* brought pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) and Rule G of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions. Forfeiture is sought of the defendant currency as money furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance, proceeds traceable to such an exchange, or money used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841, 844 and 846.

**THE PARTIES**

- 1) Plaintiff is the United State of America.
- 2) The defendant currency is \$70,090.00, which is in the custody of the United States.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 3) This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355(a).

4) This Court has *in rem* jurisdiction over the defendant currency pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1335(b).

5) Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1335 and 1339.

#### FACTS

6) Beginning in or around January 2017, the United States Department of Homeland Security (“HSI”), began conducting an ongoing investigation into a large-scale marijuana trafficking organization between the Akwesasne Mohawk Indian Reservation and the greater Syracuse area.

7) On July 20, 2017, HSI agents learned that an individual would be delivering 36 pounds of marijuana to a buyer in Hampton, Virginia.

8) Through its investigation, HSI also learned that the same individual would be picking up proceeds from a prior sale of marijuana and delivering the proceeds to the reservation.

9) Claimant, Devon Garrow (“Garrow”), was a drug runner for the organization at the time.

10) Garrow is the person who was scheduled to deliver the 36 pounds of marijuana.

11) Garrow was planning to bring approximately \$70,000 in proceeds from a previous marijuana sale to the reservation on July 24, 2017.

12) As part of the ongoing investigation, HSI agents were familiar with vehicles being utilized by the organization to transport drugs and drug proceeds to the reservation, including a 2006 Chevrolet Impala, New York State license plate number HTT6187.

13) HSI agents communicated with New York State Police (“NYSP”) regarding possible vehicles known to be utilized by the organization to transport drugs and drug proceeds that may be in the vicinity of the reservation on or about July 24, 2017.

14) On July 24, 2017, Garrow was driving a 2006 Chevrolet Impala, New York State license plate number HTT6187, which was known to be used to transport drugs and drug proceeds to the reservation.

15) At approximately 1:00 p.m. on July 24, 2017, a NYSP trooper pulled Garrow over for speeding.

16) HSI agents responded to the stop and searched the vehicle. In the trunk of the vehicle, agents discovered a shoebox containing the defendant currency.

17) The defendant currency was later counted and found to total \$70,090.00.

### **CONCLUSION**

18) As required by Supplemental Rule G(2)(f), the facts set forth above support a reasonable belief that the government will be able to meet its burden of proof at trial. Specifically, probable cause exists to believe that the defendant currency constitutes: (a) money furnished or intended to be furnished by a person in exchange for a controlled substance in violation of the Controlled Substances Act; (b) proceeds traceable to such an exchange; or (c) money used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of the Controlled Substances Act.

**WHEREFORE**, pursuant to Supplemental Rule G, Plaintiff, the United States of America, respectfully requests that the Court:

- 1) Issue a Warrant for Arrest *In Rem*, in the form submitted with this Complaint;
- 2) Direct any person having any claim to the defendant currency to file and serve their Verified Claims and Answers as required by 18 U.S.C. § 983(a)(4) and Supplemental Rule G;
- 3) Enter judgment declaring the defendant currency to be forfeited and condemned to the use and benefit of the United States of America; and

4) Award such other and further relief to the United States as this Court deems proper and just.

Dated: February 27, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

GRANT C. JAQUITH  
United States Attorney

By:



Mary E. Langan  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Bar Roll No. 518971

**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
                        )  
                        ) ss:  
COUNTY OF [ONONDAGA] )

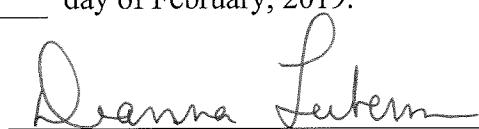
Andrew McCoy, being duly sworn, deposes and states:

I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security. I have read the foregoing Complaint for Forfeiture and assert that the facts contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, based upon knowledge possessed by me and/or on information received from other law enforcement officers.

Dated this 27 day of February, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[Andrew McCoy, Special Agent |  
[United States Department of Homeland  
Security |

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[Deanna Lieberman |  
[Notary Public |

DEANNA LIEBERMAN  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 01LI6105102  
Qualified in WAYNE County  
Commission Expires FEBRUARY 2, 2020

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

5:19-cv-279

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Onondaga  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  
Mary E. Langan, Assistant U.S. Attorney (315) 448-0650  
United States Attorney's Office, 100 South Clinton Street  
Syracuse, New York 13261

**DEFENDANTS**

\$70,090.00 in United States Currency,

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Onondaga

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)  
(For Diversity Cases Only)

Citizen of This State	PTF	DEF	PTF	DEF
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs.	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health	<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 395 Property Damage	<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability			<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise			<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	12 USC 3410
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	SOCIAL SECURITY	
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
			<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

**V. ORIGIN**

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from another district (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment
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Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (**Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity**):  
**21USC 881****VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Brief description of cause:

Seizure of money related to drug proceeds and facilitation

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:** CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION  
UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

**JURY DEMAND:**  Yes  No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE Hon. Thomas J. McAvoy

DOCKET NUMBER 5:19-CR-24

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

02/27/2018

s/Mary E. Langan

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ WAIVED \_\_\_\_\_ APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE TJM \_\_\_\_\_ MAG. JUDGE TWD \_\_\_\_\_

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